

Imagination and New Beginnings

THE START OF SCHOOL is a kind of new beginning for children, parents, and teachers alike. Together, a community of learners, children and adults, will begin to explore, discover and learn with anticipation, excitement and high hopes. Every art lesson offers a fresh start in a white piece of paper, a lump of clay or an empty stage. When we encourage our students to observe, reflect, and create — we are asking them to actively take part in their education and the shaping of their dreams.

We start by imagining what is possible. The ability to imagine and create, in response to the world around us, is a gift that we can bestow upon our children and generously share with others.



"The Miser"

Ironically, this fall's Julia Morgan Program at Rooftop begins with a play involving one of the stingiest characters ever invented for the stage. The Miser, performed by Berkeley's acclaimed Shotgun Players, is filled with comical characters, complicated plot twists, frantic

physical comedy, and is topped off with a happy ending. Using the Lincoln Center Institute (LCI) model of aesthetic education, we will ask our students to look deeper, to make connections, to find the ways that a farce, written in 1668 by the French playwright Molière, can be still be relevant and continue to speak to us today.

This summer, in preparation for our school study of theater and Molière's *The Miser*, Rooftop teachers attended the LCI summer training at the Julia Morgan Theater in Berkeley. They acted, danced, and created, immersing themselves some of the very same activities that our students will be doing in sessions with the Julia Morgan teaching artists, Dave Maier and Rica Anderson. Rooftop students will explore the basic elements and traditions of comedy. Students will learn to use facial expressions, gestures, movement, dialogue and silence to create characters. Our students will look

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Third grade teacher Amy Whitcomb in motion at the Julia Morgan summer institute.

Art Parent Breakfast & Orientation

Friday, September 24
8:00am-9:00am
Burnett MPR

What's in store for Rooftop artists, young and old, this year? Come and find out!

All interested parents are invited to join this breakfast get-together. Learn how you can support the arts in your child's classroom and hear about the art events planned for this school year.

Please give a big Rooftop round of applause as we introduce our newest Art Coordinator, **Jill Stern**.

Jill, Robin Dawson, Shauna Goodkin, and Andi Wong are the parent art coordinators for Rooftop's K-5 visual art program.

We look forward to working with your children, and we hope to see you in the classroom and around the art room.

You can contact us at rooftop-art@sbcglobal.net.

ROOFTOP ART CALENDAR

Thurs., Sept. 16	Rooftop Run T-Shirt Contest Entries Due Rooftop Run - Sunday, Oct. 17 at Lowell
Fri., Sept. 24 8:00am, Burnett MPR	Art Parent Breakfast/Orientation
Weds., Oct. 6	<i>The Miser (1st Viewing)</i> Rooftop School
Sun., Oct. 3 11:00am-3:00pm	Kindergarten Picnic and Family Art Fair Rooftop School, Burnett Campus
Tues., Oct. 12 6:30-8:00pm	Family Art Night Rooftop School, Burnett Campus MPR
Weds., Oct. 27	<i>The Miser (2nd Viewing)</i> Rooftop School
Tues., Oct. 26 6:30-8:00pm	Mayeda Media Night featuring KQED SPARK and Youth Speaks Rooftop School, Mayeda Campus Gym

at the things that they most desire and examine how desire can shape their interactions with others. Humor will help us explore our identities and the truth of what it means to be human.

Philosopher Maxine Greene, in an address to teachers attending Lincoln Center's annual summer institute, spoke of the relationship between imagination and possibility in the arts, quoting French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre. "He speaks of works of art as being gifts, generous gifts to those willing to attend, to lend their lives to them. They are, he says, acts of confidence in the freedom of human beings." Our challenge is to look beyond the period dress and speech of Moliere's time to connect with a work of art that comically points to timeless truths about human nature. Great works of art have provided ways to examine the hopes and dreams of past civilizations. When we encourage our students to engage with challenging works of art — to observe more and to make connections to a world other than what they know — we are asking them to seize the day.

Learn more about the Julia Morgan Program at Rooftop and the Lincoln Center Institute's model of aesthetic education at the October 20 PTA meeting at 6:30 pm in the Burnett MPR.

Family Art Night:

Play with Clay

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 6:30-8pm, Burnett MPR

Save the date! Join us for this year's first Family Art Night. Come and enjoy a creative, fun evening with your family – all ages are welcome. We will be working with clay in an art activity related to our fall Julia Morgan study of Moliere's *The Miser*.

What do teachers want? The Burnett and Mayeda Campus instructors collaborated to write these two poems during their professional development days before the start of school. Over 40 people contributed these thoughts about why they teach and their hopes for their students and the Rooftop community. The lines were then arranged to create these poems. Every line was used, and not a word was changed.

I TEACH

I didn't want my life to be like a
chalk mark in a rainstorm.
I liked school so much as a child,
I knew then I wanted to be a teacher.
It's in my body as natural as the blood
that flows through my veins.
A time when my father could not,
A time when others can.
I started out to play for me
and found out
I wanted to do it for them.

I see my life as a spiral.
When what I do comes back,
It feeds my spirit.

Worthwhile work.
To impact young people's
lives in a way
That will support them
to reach their potential.
Teaching offers many firsts.
The opportunity to start over,
Spontaneous laughter,
Inspiration,
And hope for the future.
The glow of power
when eyes connect,
Shoulders straighten
and a slow smile develops.
"I am me," she believes.

To learn is to empower,
To teach is to love.



Teachers at JMCA Summer Institute

THE RHYTHMS OF OUR WORLD

The rhythms of the world
Are experienced
Each day
As early as time
Capture imagination and joy.

The fog lifts to reveal
a clear, peaceful sky.
The ocean water rises, combines,
becomes a huge wave,
Erupts, dissipates, and grows again.

A broken rocking chair can still rock.

With art, we need to wear shades
Changing the trajectory of
A shot going off the rim.
The end of the tunnel opens up
And offers the world.

The world -
Little hands moving it higher
Shedding layer upon layer
Uncovering the hidden soul
Children acting naturally.

Shut the door to the big world
And enjoy a smaller one.

To be a helping hand
in a child's overwhelming world
To watch a child
find her learning love
Children running,
laughing, jumping, playing,
Without a care in the world
Stumble upon a revelation.
Discovering a hidden gift
Celebrate the differences of each like
The beautiful snowflakes in winter.

Reaching their soul to be their best
I am here to prove that
Possibilities are endless.

Looking Ahead... SPARK*

We are hosting a new art event at the Mayeda Campus that we hope will interest our older students and their families. Mayeda Media Night will take a look at the vibrant Bay Area arts scene with KQED's SPARK. SPARK's Education Project Manager Deborah Gibbon and James Kass of Youth Speaks will join us for an evening of art, technology and the amazing words and poetry of the next generation.

MAYEDA MEDIA NIGHT - Tues., Oct. 26, 6:30-8pm, Mayeda Gym

SPARK follows two Bay Area teenagers, Emiliano Bourgois-Chacon and Yalie Kumara as they make their way through the semi-finals and the finals of the Youth Speaks spoken word competitions, and get a glimpse of their lives and thoughts in their emotion-packed poetry.

SPARK is a television program, education and outreach, and a Web site dedicated to the Bay Area arts scene. Airing weekly on KQED-Channel 9 on Wednesdays at 7:30pm and Fridays at 11pm, the show profiles Bay Area artists and performers working in theatre, dance, music, visual arts, new media, literary arts and spoken word, with focus on the creative process. <http://www.kqed.org/spark> features educational content created about the art and artists featured on SPARK, streaming video of the SPARK stories, a calendar with highlights and links to other online arts calendars, a SPARK Secrets section with information and little known resources about local arts, an online feedback forum, and trivia questions about SPARK with tickets to arts events for winners!